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## DRYDOCK STILL THORN IN SIDE OF GOVERNMENT

Who Shall Stand Loss of the Great Disaster at Pearl Harbor Is Burning Question

CONTRACTORS MAY BE LEFT TO HOLD THE SACK

Secretary of Navy Has Requested Opinion from Attorney General McReynolds

By C. S. ALBERT.

(Special Star-Bulletin Correspondence)  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 25.—Must the government or the contractors sustain the loss resulting from unexpected and unforeseen complications encountered in constructing the drydock at Pearl Harbor?

This question has been engrossing navy department officials for some time. After the return of Alfred Noble and the submission of his report pronouncing it practicable to complete the work, Secretary Daniels announced that the entire problem would be put up to Congress early next year. That body would be given an opportunity to assume full responsibility for settling the matter. He would appear before the house committee on naval affairs and explain all features of the situation.

Representatives of the contractors were insistent that their clients should be released from accountability for the bottom of the drydock sinking and their loss should be limited to expenditure of the original \$3,400,000 appropriated. It was argued that Congress must allow whatever additional amount was necessary to build the drydock.

In order to speedily terminate the controversy Secretary Daniels finally determined to request an expert legal opinion from the department of justice. With that end in view, Attorney-general McReynolds was asked for an opinion.

The conclusions of the attorney-general have not been submitted. It is unlikely he will take the question up till after the holiday season ends. He went to Elkton, Kentucky, before Christmas and is not expected here until January 12. Unless some of his assistants attend to the request made by Secretary Daniels nothing will be accomplished until after the reassembling of Congress and the return of Mr. McReynolds.

Think Contractors Will Lose.

The general belief prevails that the opinion when rendered will be adverse to the contractors. It is thought the department of justice authorities will hold that the contractors must carry out their agreement and construct the drydock for \$3,400,000. It is thought the blame for not making stipulations of exception must rest upon those undertaking to build the drydock and no culpability attaches to representatives of the government.

In the event that such an opinion is given Secretary Daniels there will be no necessity for the further appropriation of funds by Congress, as was at first anticipated. It will become the duty of the contractors to pocket their loss and go ahead with the work according to the plans laid down by Mr. Noble.

Under such circumstances relief for the contractors only could be afforded by Congressional action. In view of the conditions it is highly probable that reasonable allowance would be made. A course of that character has always been followed in the case of delayed battleships and other contract work.

**JEFF McCARN TO SPEAK BEFORE COMMERCIAL CLUB**

Jeff McCarn, the United States district attorney here, will address the members of the commercial club tomorrow at noon. He will be the guest of the club at that time. A large number are expected to be present to hear his short talk.

**STAR-BULLETIN GIVES YOU TODAY'S NEWS TODAY**

## COMMITTEES OF CARNIVAL EVENTS TO HOLD MEETINGS THIS EVENING

Aquatic Sports Should Prove a Big Feature of Next Month's Mid-Winter Pageant

CARNIVAL MEETINGS TODAY.

Carnival ball of all nations, Elks' Club, 5 o'clock this afternoon.

Committee on swimming, room 45, Young Hotel building, 7:30 o'clock this evening.

The committee in charge of the aquatic sports of the Mid-Pacific carnival, of which William T. Rawlins is chairman, and which is composed of E. A. Douthitt, James A. Lyle, Peter Baron, Thomas Treadway, W. H. C. Campbell, Thomas J. King, J. T. Stacker, J. Walter Doyle, Lew Henderson and Edmund Steele, will meet in the Young Hotel building at 7:30 o'clock this evening to launch plans for the great swimming competition which will be one of the distinct features of the celebration next month.

Already the committee has sent to Al Coney of the Olympic Club at San Francisco, the man who made swimming the big feature of coast athletics, instructions to secure a relay team of five expert swimmers to come to Honolulu to enter into the local meet. The carnival corporation, upon the recommendation of Director-general James D. Dougherty, has agreed to pay the transportation of the five swimmers and also of a manager. It is understood now that Mr. Coney has his team complete, he having picked the members after a lively competition which was held at San Francisco and which was entered into by fast water men from all over the Pacific Coast.

**YVONNE DE TREVILLE WILL GIVE COSTUME RECITALS IN CITY**

With the coming of Yvonne de Treville, Tuesday, January 27, the music lovers of Honolulu will have the rare opportunity of hearing the



coloratura soprano in a costume recital, illustrating "Three Centuries of Prime Music."

Miss De Treville is celebrated for her operatic triumphs in Europe, having appeared in all the large continental cities where she won immediate favor. In her costume recital she impersonates Mlle. Maupin, Jenny Lind and a well known singer of today.

Two concerts will be given at the Hawaiian Opera house between the date of her arrival and February 7.

Musically, historically, pictorially and from the standpoint of pure and beautiful vocalism, Miss de Treville has created a new chapter in the annals of American music.

**LATEST MARRIAGE LICENSES**

Swann, Merck, Honolulu	29
Mary Lechandro Schuabell, Honolulu	25
Walter A. Smith, Honolulu	29
Violet C. Brown, Berkeley, Calif.	28
Homer Hayes, Molokai	33
Flora Allen Kael, Hawaii	21
Antone Tavares, Honolulu	25
Rosa dos Santos Tavares, Honolulu	18

It is expected that the coast team will arrive in Honolulu on the Lurline February 10.

The problem of seating the public will be taken up at the meeting this evening, along with other matters which demand immediate attention at the hands of the committee. It is the idea of the committee to have the swimming events take place in the harbor between piers 1 and 2 of the naval slip. Admiral C. B. T. Moore was recently approached regarding the use of the slip and, while he was not in a position to grant a request for its use, wrote a letter to the navy department in which he spoke very favorably of the idea. It is believed that little difficulty will be experienced in securing the use of the slip. Admiral Moore is doing all possible to assist the committee. The committee plans to erect bleachers on both docks in order that all who attend the water carnival will have an excellent view of the course.

The members of the Hui Au Kai, a local girls' swimming club, recently communicated with the committee with regard to bringing a champion women swimmer from the coast to Honolulu to compete in the ladies' swimming races. It was found, however, that the finances of the carnival would not permit of such an undertaking at this time, so the girls have arranged a benefit dance which will be held January 24, at which time they expect to raise \$350 with which to bring the swimmer here.

The committee on the carnival ball of all nations, composed of S. A. Walker, S. Chillingworth, Charles Stillyman, Ernest Kaai, D. L. Conkling, Lieut. Campanole and J. Roy Patten, will meet at the Elks' Club at 5 o'clock this evening.

## BANKING LAW SATISFACTORY, SAYS BANKER

Clarence H. Cooke Returns from Mainland Trip and Reports Business Quiet

Returning in the Sierra after an absence of seven weeks, in which time he visited New York and Washington and stayed one day in San Francisco, Clarence H. Cooke, president of the Bank of Hawaii and managing director of C. M. Cooke, Ltd., brought home a severe cold and the toughest experience of sea voyaging that ever befell him.

"Conditions seem to be quiet everywhere," Mr. Cooke said regarding the mainland business outlook. "On the Pacific coast a great many men are out of employment. In Seattle and Tacoma work is being found for the unemployed hordes upon public improvements. Labor conditions in San Francisco and Los Angeles are even worse than in the northwest."

"The banks appear to be pleased with the outcome of the currency bill, although there are a few that hope for certain amendments to the measure. Taking the country as a whole, the feeling is one of satisfaction with the law."

"In relation to the outlook of prices of sugar for this year, it is not so promising as it was for last year. With the new tariff coming into force in March and the pressure to sell between now and then, the mainland producers of sugar, also those of Porto Rico, are in a state of severe depression. Three beet factories in California are already closed down on account of the new tariff. A Colorado beet sugar man told me that a great many of the farmers in that state now planting beets would not accept the prices offered by the factories and were putting the land to alfalfa and other crops."

"In all branches of manufacture, and even in the railroad situation, there seems to be a great deal of uncertainty as to where they stand with the administration, as so far the administration has announced no definite policy."

"With regard to the income tax there is a great deal of uncertainty as to just how much revenue it will produce and estimates vary very widely. Then, regarding the method of collecting the tax and filling out the blanks, the attorneys of some large corporations seem to differ widely in the advice given to their respective clients, and a great many of these questions can only be settled through court decisions."

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